



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**July 31, 2008**

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

**FROM:** Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Weekly E-Newsletter

### **IN THIS REPORT:**

- **Register for the Annual Superintendents' Meeting**
- **Certification Renewal Pilot Program**
- **Apply for the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL SUPERINTENDENTS' MEETING (GO TO TOP)**

Registration for the Annual Superintendents' Meeting and New Superintendents' Meeting will close on Friday, August 1, 2008. Please register today!

To register for one or both meetings, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/administrators.htm>. The meetings are open to all public school district superintendents and charter school administrators.

### **CERTIFICATION RENEWAL PILOT PROGRAM (GO TO TOP)**

The State Department of Education is piloting a simplified process for recertification this fall. Currently, the renewal of a full Idaho Certificate at the end of the five-year validity period requires that teachers, administrators and other personnel submit official transcripts to support the professional development requirement. After hearing feedback about how cumbersome this process has become, the Department is piloting a procedure that will only require individuals to submit a Renewal Application and a check for the recertification fee at the time of renewal. For accountability purposes, the Department will randomly select a minimum of 10 percent of Renewal Applications to audit. If audited, the individual will have up to 60 days to submit proof of professional development to the State Department of Education.

All teachers and administrators are eligible to take part in the pilot project this fall if they are required to recertify in the Fall 2008. To participate, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/default.asp> and submit your materials by **August 29, 2008**.



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Upon a successful pilot, the Department plans to full implement this program in January 2009. More detailed information on this pilot project, including the Renewal Application and Frequently Asked Questions, is posted at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/default.asp> under "Certification Renewal Pilot Project." If you have any questions about the pilot project, please contact Clarice Lansbery in the Department's Teacher Certification office at (208) 332-6882 or [CLansbery@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CLansbery@sde.idaho.gov).

### APPLY FOR THE FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES PROGRAM (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education is happy to announce that the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) has been expanded to all 50 states and Guam. A few changes have been made to the original program, which include:

- Only **elementary** schools in the state with more than 50% free and reduced students can participate in this program;
- More than 25 schools in Idaho can be selected;
- The school site must make **free FRESH fruits and vegetables** available to students in one or more areas designated by the school in addition to the National School Lunch Program (dried fruit is not allowed anymore).

Through this program, sponsors will get reimbursed for these products from \$50 to \$75 per student, per year at your site. (This will be determined based upon an enrollment formula for all schools that are selected).

At this time we are accepting applications from National School Lunch Program sponsors for sites that want to be considered for this program. It is important that we have a commitment from the school district and the specific site and, for that reason, will only consider those sites you have submitted. To apply, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp) and submit your application by **August 28, 2008**.

If you have further questions about the program, please contact Lynda Westphal in Child Nutrition Programs at the State Department of Education at (208) 332-6825 or [LJWestphal@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:LJWestphal@sde.idaho.gov).

### SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the 2008 Annual Superintendents' Meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 7 in Meridian.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the 2008 New Superintendents' Meeting at 9 a.m. on Friday, August 8 in Boise.

### WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Wind for Schools project** – Idaho has been selected as one of six states participating in *Wind for Schools*, a unique educational project in collaboration with Boise State University, the U.S. Department of Energy and Idaho's wind energy industry. This project is designed to educate our students about wind energy and prepare them for future jobs in this industry. Wind is the fastest-growing energy source both worldwide and in the US. The goal is to install wind turbines at four rural schools per year for the next three years. If your school is interested in participating in



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this project, please visit <http://coen.boisestate.edu/WindEnergy/WfS/index.asp>, complete the application and submit it to Todd Haynes at Boise State University at [toddhaynes@boisestate.edu](mailto:toddhaynes@boisestate.edu).

- **First Freedom essay contest** – The Council for America’s First Freedom has announced the 16<sup>th</sup> annual First Freedom Student Competition, a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. The topic this year introduces students to George Washington’s famous statement about “mere” toleration in his 1790 letter to the Jewish congregation of Newport, Rhode Island. Students will identify the basic principles of religious liberty espoused in this primary document and will further research and assess how well the United States has lived up to Washington’s ideal. In addition to the monetary award, the first-place winner and his or her teacher (or other adult chaperone) will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Newport, Rhode Island in mid-August 2009 for the annual VIP reading of President Washington’s historic letter. For more information on this competition, please visit [www.firstfreedom.org](http://www.firstfreedom.org). Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is **Friday, November 28**.
- **Job opening at the Department** – The State Department of Education is seeking outstanding candidates to apply for the Title IIA Coordinator position. The Coordinator will coordinate State Activity Projects for teacher and principal quality, and provide fiscal and fund allocation responsibilities related to the Title IIA budget. The Coordinator provides leadership in improving educational opportunities for Idaho’s at-risk students and oversight of professional development planning and assessment. Candidates must possess a strong understanding of federal regulations, program planning, research-based professional development programs, consistent communication with district leaders, and knowledge of best practices in education. For more information, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/job\\_openings/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/job_openings/). Application materials must be submitted by Tuesday, **August 5, 2008**.

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Senate Bill 1443** – On the Post-Legislative Tour, staff of the State Department of Education discussed a new law the Idaho Legislature passed in 2008, which requires that each Board of Trustees adopt a policy for its district, by no later than **September 1, 2008**, allowing students to use epinephrine auto-injectors for severe allergic reactions. This is in the same section of law as the existing requirement that boards allow the use of inhalers for students with asthma or other life-threatening respiratory illnesses. Students are to be allowed to carry and self-administer these drugs on school grounds, though the district may require that a duplicate copy of the prescription be kept on file with the school nurse, or, in the absence of a school nurse, with the school’s administrator. For more information on Senate Bill 1443, please visit <http://www3.state.id.us/oasis/S1443.html>.
- **Kuna awarded PEP grant** – The Kuna Joint School District was recently awarded a Physical Education Program (PEP) grant for \$572,000. The Weekly E-Newsletter on July 17 published an incorrect amount. The Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) provides grants to initiate, expand and improve physical education programs for K-12 students in order to help them make progress toward meeting state standards for physical education. Funds may also support staff and teacher training and education.



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- **Comments on proposed board rule** – The State Department of Education requested feedback from the public earlier this year on a proposed board rule that will help implement House Bill 566a, a bill that passed the Idaho Legislature earlier this year and amended Idaho Code 33-130 and Idaho Code 33-512(15). This law affects fingerprinting and Criminal History Checks for personnel working in school buildings. The listing of comments and the Department's response to the comments are now available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/default.asp>. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Haas at (208) 332-6888 or [SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov).
- **New IRI materials for 2008-2009** – Please remember the State Department of Education is mailing new testing materials for the 2008-2009 Idaho Reading Indicator. Do not use testing materials from the previous school year to administer the IRI in 2008-2009. Old materials may be used as practice guides. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Fisk, Reading Coordinator, at (208) 332-6927 or [JFisk@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JFisk@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Alternative Authorization deadline** – The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will be conducting a meeting to approve Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate district requests on **August 11, 2008**. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or [CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov). Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to this date. You can mail applications to:  
State Department of Education  
ATTN: Cina Oravez  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
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- **IBEDS codes** – The listing of 2008-2009 IBEDS Endorsements to IBEDS Assignment Codes are now available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/datacollection/ibeds/>. The listing will be a useful tool for school officials to use in assigning/staffing their programs this fall.
- **Attendance and Enrollment workshops** – Here is the schedule of workshops:

Thursday, August 7th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Friday, August 8th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Tuesday, August 12th	Idaho Falls	Taylorview Jr High, 350 Castlerock Ln, Idaho Falls
Wednesday, August 13th	Pocatello	Pocatello District Office Board Room, 3115 Pole Line Rd Pocatello
Thursday, August 14th	Jerome	Summit Elementary, 200 West 10th Street, Jerome
Monday, August 18th	Coeur d'Alene	Midtown Meeting Room, 1505 N 5th Street, Coeur d'Alene
Tuesday, August 19th	Lewiston	Lewiston District Office Board Room, 3317 12th Street, Lewiston

For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/financeandtechnology/default.asp> and click on the "Attendance and Enrollment Workshop" link listed under "Training" in the column to the right of the page.



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- **Oregon Trail Learning Experience** – The Idaho chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association invites all Idaho educators to participate in the 2008 convention of the Oregon-California Trail Association. The convention will be held August 4-9, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. University credit is. Registration information is posted at [www.idahoocta.org](http://www.idahoocta.org) or you can contact Cathy Bournier with the Division of Tourism Development at (208) 334-2470 for more information.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Aug. 7, 2008** – The Annual Superintendents' Meeting will be held at the Meridian School District offices in Meridian. To register, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/administrators.htm>.
- **Aug. 8, 2008** – The New Superintendents' Meeting will be held at the State Department of Education offices in Boise. To register, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/administrators.htm>.
- **Aug. 29, 2008** – The deadline to submit applications for Safe Routes to School funding to the Idaho Transportation Department. For more information, visit [www.itd.idaho.gov](http://www.itd.idaho.gov) and click on "Safe Routes to School."
- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit nominations for Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education's Web site at [www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear). Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.